

Records
Jan 19
Ann Edna Cluff Barker
Daughter of Hyrum Cluff
who was son of Moses Cluff

LIFE HISTORY OF ANN BOND WILSON

Our grandmother, Ann Bond Wilson, was born Jul 6 24, 1840, in Cheation Hill Manchestershire England. A daughter of Mary Ann Barker and William Bond, she was the second child of a family of thirteen children, one set of twins.

When Ann was eight years of age her family immigrated to America, her parents had heard the gospel message given them by Elders Parley P. Pratt John Taylor, John Banks, and James Williamson. They believed it and became infatuated with it. And wishing to see the new west, both were baptized and became members of the church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, for their souls salvation. The Elders counsoled them to gather to the bosom of the church in the land of Zion, Utah.

So selling their possessions, with their four children they left Liverpool England, in the Ark Wright vessel the latter part of May 1848.

Their voyage was a breath-taking experience to all aboard--the sea was rough, huge waves dashed on the deck--they were home sick for their friends at home and many lay sea sick, wishing they were back on land. The ship sailed steadily for nearly six weeks, making good time. At last, a cry is heard, the captain has sighted land, which caused much rejoicing among the passengers and their faces were all smiles to think they were nearing the long looked for Boston Harbor. They landed July 15, 1848.

Ann's parents settled in Fall River, Massachusetts, here they rented a small house. Her father started his tailoring business, the children went to school. Three more children were born here.

Years went by the last of February 1856, her father sold his business and was ready to start with the first immigrants to great Salt Lake City, Utah. On March 9, 1856, through the assistance of John Taylor and the church he made arrangements for two yoke of oxen, wagon and supplies to start their trip westward, Ann and her family was in the second company of hand carts with Daniel McArthur as their captain. Later her father received his yoke of oxen, wagon and supplies and so they were following the other wagons and hand-carts over the rolling prairies beneath the moon and star light of the azure sky in July 26.

Ann's trip was full of experiences, she witnessed both Joy and sorrow, she knew what it was to be cold and hungry, at Florence Nebraska, early September, the wagons were halted and council was called, the hand-cart saints were afraid the season was too late to make any more travel that year on account of snow and cold weather which would have to be endured in crossing the rocky mountains before they snow reached Salt Lake City.

Franklin D. Richards told the saints that they had come this far on their faith, he told them they would arrive at the Valley in safety in spite of the inclement weather and storm from all directions, That God would keep them safe.

Then Joseph A. Young, Moses Cluff and others in authority advised them to wait at Florence, Nebraska until spring, so they wouldn't suffer great loss of life but the saints, anxious to reach the valley, not heeding the advise given them started on this journey of 1000 miles of tragedy and suffering.

At Fort Laramie, council was held again, this was in October, and the parents were told to cut down on the food, allow one small biscute per day, and to lighten their loads so as to make more room and easier for the oxens. Ann's parents looked each other in the faces as much to say they believed it would be a hard journey the rest of the way. Her mother, with tears in her eyes, gave up her no. 8 charter oak stove to make more room thinking how nice it would be to have it on arriving at the journeys end. As they journeyed on Ann and her brothers and sisters would beg for more to eat. It nearly broke their parents hearts to hear their piteous pleadings but they could have done no differently as this was the best way to save the children's lives. After traveling some distance Ann's father began to fear that a biscuit a day was to much for the flour they had on hand. He called the children together in the wagon and said, "Children, the flour we have on hand, I fear will not hold out, mother and I have come to the conclusion that we will have to allow 1/2 biscut a day until the relief party comes. Then children were willing to make the allowance of 1/2 biscuit a day but the younger children, not understanding, were continually begging for more bread.

Ann could remember so many incidents along the way, how at times many would die during the night, there was one time six brothers and sisters died, the next day she watched their burial, Moses Cluff offered the prayer, then he, Moses Cluff, John Toone, B.J. Franklin and others would prepare the graves and carry the departed ones to their last resting place. Ann could remember the snow capped mountains

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towering toward the sky and how the wagon wheels would grind on the frozen snow, and how while walking she became exhausted and was unable to keep up in the deep snow she could not walk fast enough to keep her feet from freezing, It was bitter cold and the tears rolled down her cheeks from the pain of her frozen feet but she kept walking until the train camped for noon, then she was put in the wagon, her boots taken off, her feet were black with the frost. Her parents did all they could to ease the pain, tending her feet day and night for they were afraid they would have to be amputated. She rode in the wagon the rest of the trip.

After 156 days of strife and struggle following the Mormon trail to their home, down through Echo canyon, through Henefer, over the Big Mountain this couple and their family of six arrived in Salt Lake City, November 31, 1856. Thence going into Provo and there making their home for a few years.

Ann was now 16 years old, slender in statue and matured for her years. Her experience in the past had only strengthened her character, she had beautiful black hair, and a very pleasant smile, she was patient, kind, good-hearted and understanding, she was always willing to help others. Here is where the friendship between herself and Moses Cluff grew into love and they were married in the Salt Lake Temple February 14, 1857, just two months and 14 days after the immigrant train arrived in the valley. This sealing was cancelled June 30, 1873.

To them six children were born--David, October 6, 1860-- Heber, November 15, 1863, the other four died at birth or shortly after.

Ann was a very ambitious mother and wife, she made a good help-mate and their home was full of love. She was an active church member, full of faith and the belief in the her-after and eternal life.

Later years, polygamy was being practiced, Ann didn't believe in it, so her husband Moses Cluff decided to move to Arizona. Ann did not want to go. Her husband left in the night, taking their two sons David and Heber, with him.

Ann was heart broken, being alone she returned to Henefer where her parents now lived. In this small town she met her second husband, Walter Wilson, they were married about 1874, Her husband made a cosy home for her and it was in this log house their five children were born, --Louise Jane, July 19, 1875-- Mary Alice, October 17, 1877,-- Walter Bond, Sept. 17, 1879,-- Elizabeth Ann, June 8, 1881-- Ella Freedone, August 5, 1883.

They were a very happy couple, both having a pleasant disposition and love for each other. Their home was always a meeting place for the young people and singing and laughter could be heard from within. Ann and her husband were very neighborly with the Foster family and the Batchelor family, their children all played together.

Ann's older sister, Sarah died leaving a small baby girl., Margaret (Maggie) Glen, Ann took the child into her heart Bestowing her love and affection upon her, when Maggie grew to young womanhood she married Ed. Gibby.

As the years slipped by Ann was much concerned about her two sons, David and Heber, her heart yearned for them and she longed so much to see them. Their father had married again and reared a large family. She had learned that Heber had been called to fill a mission to the Central States, her heart filled with pride, he was released in January 1905, and had written her before telling her he would visit her on his return trip, she planned on this visit patiently waiting the time of his arrival, then she received another letter saying, because his funds were low he could not afford to come on this route to visit with her, he was sent to Colonia, New Mexico. She was heart-broken with this news and cried much of the time, she never saw him again. Her son David came to visit relatives many times after her death.

Ann died on Tuesday, January 29, 1907, after a severe attack of Gall Stones, she was the mother of eleven children, seven of whom survived her. She crossed the plains with the hand cart co. in 1856 and suffered all the trials of that trip. She was a good wife and mother--and a friend to all in need and died in full faith of a glorious resurrection. She was buried in the Henefer City cemetery.